

Devotion to Prayer

Selected Scriptures

Three Passages on Prayer

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- **“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42)**
- **“For through him [Christ Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2:18)**

Outline

- 1. Praying to the Father**
- 2. Praying through the Son**
- 3. Praying in the Spirit**

1. Praying to the Father

“we . . . have access . . . to the Father” (Eph. 2:18)

1. Praying to the Father

- **The heart of the Father (Matt. 6:5-13; 7:7-11)**

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

1. Praying to the Father

- **The heart of the Father (Matt. 6:5-13; 7:7-11)**
- **The generosity of the Father (Eph. 3:14-21)**

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

2. Praying through the Son

“through him . . . we . . . have access . . . to the Father” (Eph. 2:18)

2. Praying through the Son

- **The Son gives us access (Eph. 2:18)**



You cannot flourish as a Christian unless you constantly draw near to God in supplication, but your supplications must always be presented through the name of Jesus Christ. His name gives prevalence to prayer; it is not so much your earnestness or sincerity, as his precious blood, that speaks in the ears of God and intercedes for you. Pray ever then with your eye upon the finished propitiation and the living intercessor; ever plead the merit of Immanuel, and heaven's gates shall open to you.

—Charles Spurgeon

2. Praying through the Son

- **The Son gives us access (Eph. 2:18)**
- **The Son gives us boldness (Heb. 10:19-22; 4:14-16)**

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

TIM CHESTER

ENJOYING



JESUS

EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE AND
KINDNESS OF THE SON OF GOD IN
EVERYDAY LIFE

“The Puritan William Bridge wrote: Be sure that you think of Christ in a right way and manner as he suits your condition and as he is held forth in the gospel...

The Scriptures hold forth the person of Christ in ways that make him very amiable to poor sinners:

***Are you accused by Satan, the world or your own conscience? He is called your Advocate.**

***Are you ignorant? He is called the Prophet.**

***Are you guilty of sin? He is called a Priest and High Priest.**

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EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE AND
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***Are you afflicted with many enemies, inward and outward? He is called a King, and King of Kings.**

***Are you hungry or thirsty? He is called the Bread and Water of Life.**

***Are you afraid you shall fall away and be condemned at last? He is our second Adam, our representative, in whose death we died and who has satisfied all that God requires of us.**

Just as there is no temptation or affliction, but some promise or other is especially suited to it, so there is no condition, but some name, some title, some attribute of Christ is especially suited to it.”

2. Praying through the Son

“through him . . . we . . . have access . . . to the Father” (Eph. 2:18)

3. Praying in the Spirit

“we . . . have access in the Spirit . . .” (Eph. 2:18)

3. Praying in the Spirit

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- **We pray with the Spirit's words (1 Cor. 2:13)**
- **The Spirit prays in us with groaning too deep for words (Rom. 8:26-27)**

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Galatians 4:6-7

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



An ordinary Christian kneels down to say his prayers. He is trying to get in touch with God. But if he is a Christian he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God: God, so to speak, inside him. But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through Christ, the Man who was God – that Christ is standing beside, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying – the goal he is trying to reach.



God is also the thing inside him which is pushing him on – the motive power. God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers. The man is being caught up into the higher kind of life . . . he is being pulled into God, by God.

—C. S. Lewis

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